

Erosion-troubled areas may get heavy duty sand bags

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LONG BEACH TOWNSHIP — The township will explore the idea of putting heavy duty bags of sand in front of erosion-troubled areas.

Commissioner Robert Palmer said he will meet with Township Engineer Frank Little to discuss the idea.

The porous "geobags," which are filled with sand, are then placed in areas that need more support.

Palmer said the township will look into perhaps putting the bags between 49th Street and 54 Street.

"We're more than willing to look at anything like this," Palmer said. "These are areas that need to be fixed and kept up.

"The township has a machine that could fill them. We would just need to purchase the bags," Palmer added.

The bags are already going to be used to cover up metal sticking up out of the jetty in the Holgate section of the township near the Forsythe wildlife refuge.

That area of the township took a hit over the winter storm season.

Bill Kunz, a Brant Beach resident, made the suggestion to the Board of Commissioners during its meeting March 17.

"I think this is something that we could look at to keep the area safe," Kunz said. "It's something that we should look into."

Other township beach areas were damaged during winter storms. A mid-February storm washed away all of the sand surrounding a home on Ocean Boulevard between 51st and 52nd streets. The township then spent the next few days trucking in 30 to 40 loads a day to prevent further damage. The township spent \$150,000 on making repairs.

Geobags have been used successfully before in places such as the township, Surf City and Beach Haven. In some places, such as the north side of the Barnegat Inlet, geotubes have been used.

"We're willing to look at anything to protect our beaches," Palmer said.

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